

# Dixieland "Greats" Recall Early N'Orleans Days

LOS ANGELES—Is Dixieland on the way out now that many of the great, early exponents of the native American jazz form are nearing their last sets?

Never! Not if the "message" passed along by three of Dixieland's "grand old men" last week continues to stir the imagination and dancing feet of America's recurrent younger generations.

This venerable trio got together for a little warmup session at the Hollywood Knickerbocker prior to last weekend's Dixieland concert at Disneyland. Their memories moved back the clock 46 years.

Kid Ory began the tale. "It was 1918 in New Orleans," he recalled. "I had this little band called Kid Ory's Brown-skin Babies and I needed a trumpet player.

"I sent for this kid but he had to borrow a pair of long pants before he could go to work."

"I remember, man," chimed in Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong. "You told 'em, 'Go fetch little Louie.'"

"Oh, yeah," Satchmo said with a grin. "That was my first break, man."

"This guy was with us, too," Ory said, pointing with his trombone to Johnny St. Cyr.

"I played banjo," St. Cyr recalled, "and there wasn't no place we wouldn't play. We played dance halls, weddings, funerals, river boats and 'house parties.' I sure miss them old days."

The three stayed together for about four years, Ory said, and then each drifted off to help spread the "gospel" of Dixieland all over the nation.

But they remained bound together by friendship and the Dixieland beat they helped to shape in their home town of New Orleans.

Armstrong, now 64, rose to the top of the entertainment world and "Satchmo" became an international word.

St. Cyr, 78, still plunks his banjo with the Young Men from New Orleans who play at Disneyland.

But Ory gave up his horn. "The doctor told me 'Don't kill yourself,'" he says. Ory owns

a night club in San Francisco.

Now 78, Ory takes his horn out of its case only once a year. That's to play at the annual Dixieland at Disneyland concert.

They met again for the pre-concert session at the Knickerbocker and some of their other friends who played at Disneyland were along.

There was Sharkey Bonano, who'll lead his Kings of Dixieland at Disneyland; Sweet Emma

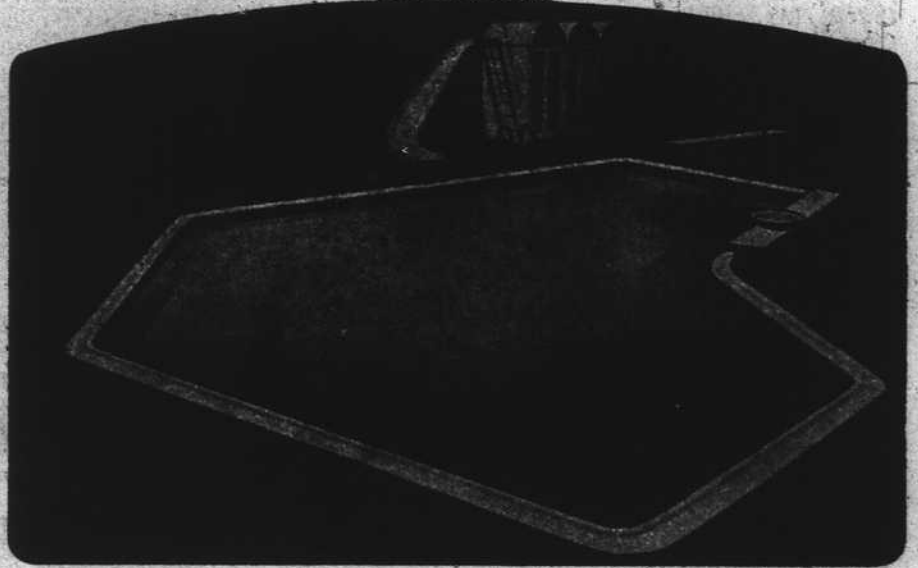
Barrett, a piano player making her first appearance outside New Orleans, and Ben Pollack and his Dixieland All-Stars.

"There's not many of us left," Satchmo said. "Everytime you look around one's gone. It's just that quick."

But Dixieland will never disappear, he added. "It's impossible. How can there be music without Dixieland?" he demanded.

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**SWINGERS!**—Some of Dixieland's great musicians meet for session at Hollywood Knickerbocker prior to Dixie concert at Disneyland. From left, Ben Pollock, Kid Ory, Emma Barrett, Johnny St. Cyr, front, Louis Armstrong, Sharkey Bonano.

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